

# #1

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Wednesday, November 09, 2022 1:59:31 PM  
**Last Modified:** Wednesday, November 09, 2022 2:44:33 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:45:02  
**IP Address:** 34.100.94.126

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## Q1

Contact information:

**Name:** Peter Brown  
**City/Town:** Bozeman  
**State/Province:** MT  
**Email Address:** pbrown26@hotmail.com

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## Q2

Please comment on the Rock Creek (Paradise Valley) Water Right Lease.

I am supportive of this in-stream flow restoration project on Rock and Stoughten Creeks. Leadership like this from landowners and local MT-FWP Fisheries staff is admirable at a time when there are so many challenges to overcome and relationships to repair between MT-FWP and private landowners. Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this project.

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#2

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
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**Last Modified:** Wednesday, November 09, 2022 2:45:08 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:01:13  
**IP Address:** 98.97.44.77

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**Q1**

Contact information:

**Name:** Jeff Reed  
**City/Town:** Emigrant  
**State/Province:** MT  
**Email Address:** jeff@reedfly.com

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**Q2**

Please comment on the Rock Creek (Paradise Valley) Water Right Lease.

I support the Rock Creek water right lease as it will support our \$70M+ fly-fishing industry in south Park County. Thanks

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#3

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Thursday, November 10, 2022 11:26:20 AM  
**Last Modified:** Thursday, November 10, 2022 12:17:11 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:50:51  
**IP Address:** 150.120.160.52

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**Q1**

Contact information:

Name:	<b>Bailey Servais</b>
City/Town:	<b>Livingston</b>
State/Province:	<b>MT</b>
Email Address:	<b>bailey.upperyellowstone@outlook.com</b>

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**Q2**

Please comment on the Rock Creek (Paradise Valley) Water Right Lease.

I support this project!

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# #4

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Monday, November 14, 2022 1:10:58 PM  
**Last Modified:** Monday, November 14, 2022 1:14:48 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:03:50  
**IP Address:** 32.215.211.51

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## Q1

Contact information:

**Name:** Wendy Weaver, Montana Freshwater Partners  
**City/Town:** Livingston  
**State/Province:** MT  
**Email Address:** [wweaver@freshwaterpartners.org](mailto:wweaver@freshwaterpartners.org)

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## Q2

Please comment on the Rock Creek (Paradise Valley) Water Right Lease.

As a non-profit focused on stream and wetland restoration with our office blocks away from the Yellowstone River, Montana Freshwater Partners fully supports this water lease. The proposed lease would protect streamflow in Rock and Stoughten Creeks, keep trout redds from drying up, and allow fish movement and outmigration to the Yellowstone River. Opportunities like this to protect our natural resources are extremely important as water becomes more scarce in Paradise Valley. We encourage the commission to approve the Water Right Lease Agreement as it provides a cost-effective project to benefit Yellowstone cutthroat trout.

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# #5

**COMPLETE**

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**Started:** Monday, November 14, 2022 1:22:02 PM  
**Last Modified:** Monday, November 14, 2022 1:32:16 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:10:13  
**IP Address:** 192.161.70.63

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## Q1

Contact information:

Name:	<b>Matson Rogers</b>
City/Town:	<b>Bozeman</b>
State/Province:	<b>MT</b>
Email Address:	<b>matson@montanaflyfishers.com</b>

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## Q2

Please comment on the Rock Creek (Paradise Valley) Water Right Lease.

Please vote in favor of the proposed Rock Creek water rights lease. Any and all proposals that can help Yellowstone Cutthroat trout populations are beneficial

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#6

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Monday, November 14, 2022 6:15:35 PM  
**Last Modified:** Monday, November 14, 2022 6:20:14 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:04:39  
**IP Address:** 174.45.83.44

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Page 1

**Q1**

Contact information:

**Name:** Ryan Eisfeldt  
**City/Town:** Bozeman  
**State/Province:** MT  
**Email Address:** ryaneisfeldt@hotmail.com

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**Q2**

Please comment on the Rock Creek (Paradise Valley) Water Right Lease.

As a long time fishing guide and outfitter I am in favor of approving a Water Right Lease Agreement with Point of Rocks Ranch LLC and direct Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) staff to make application to the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) to temporarily change the irrigation water rights to instream flow for a period of 30-years in accordance with the Water Right Lease Agreement.

I hope this leads to more, or sets a precedent for water rights to be used as "In Stream Flows".

Thank you,

Ryan Eisfeldt

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#7

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Monday, November 14, 2022 8:37:17 PM  
**Last Modified:** Monday, November 14, 2022 8:39:01 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:01:44  
**IP Address:** 174.198.130.12

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Page 1

**Q1**

Contact information:

Name:	<b>Will Lassiter</b>
City/Town:	<b>Livingston</b>
State/Province:	<b>MT</b>
Email Address:	<b>wlassit@gmail.com</b>

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**Q2**

Please comment on the Rock Creek (Paradise Valley) Water Right Lease.

I would like to offer my support for the project. Keeping instream flow in the creeks would be very beneficial for the overall health of the system.

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#8

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
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**Last Modified:** Monday, November 14, 2022 9:45:15 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:02:13  
**IP Address:** 71.15.199.93

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Page 1

**Q1**

Contact information:

Name: **Phil Sgamma**  
City/Town: **BOZEMAN**  
State/Province: **MT**  
Email Address: **philz101@yahoo.com**

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**Q2**

Please comment on the Rock Creek (Paradise Valley) Water Right Lease.

I urge FWP to approve the Rock and Stoughten Creeks Water Right Lease Agreement. I support this project as a benefit to the trout fishery of the Yellowstone River.

Thank you

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#9

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Tuesday, November 15, 2022 5:47:10 AM  
**Last Modified:** Tuesday, November 15, 2022 5:49:07 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:01:56  
**IP Address:** 37.19.210.18

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**Q1**

Contact information:

Name: **rod campbell**  
City/Town: **bozeman**  
State/Province: **MT**  
Email Address: **flyrod270@gmail.com**

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**Q2**

Please comment on the Rock Creek (Paradise Valley) Water Right Lease.

I support more water in Rock Creek, it makes the fish happy!

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# #10

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Tuesday, November 15, 2022 7:50:10 AM  
**Last Modified:** Tuesday, November 15, 2022 7:54:39 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:04:28  
**IP Address:** 72.175.120.34

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## Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Matthew Clawson**  
City/Town: **Billings**  
State/Province: **MT**  
Email Address: **mclawson.bighorn@gmail.com**

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## Q2

Please comment on the Rock Creek (Paradise Valley) Water Right Lease.

I am strong support of the Rock and Stoughten Creeks Water Right Lease Agreement. This will lot of benefit to the health of the river. And will help protect this important resource.

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# #11

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
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**Last Modified:** Tuesday, November 15, 2022 8:24:27 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:13:20  
**IP Address:** 72.255.185.191

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Page 1

## Q1

Contact information:

**Name:** Adam Wagner  
**City/Town:** Big Timber  
**State/Province:** MT  
**Email Address:** Sweetcastadam@gmail.com

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## Q2

Please comment on the Rock Creek (Paradise Valley) Water Right Lease.

This sure does sound like a solution that makes alot of sense. The land owner will be happy, the habitat is treated better and the Yellowstone's trout population win. With the ever-changing effects of climate change conspiring to harm our cold water fish populations and their habitats, it seems that in stream flows need to be supported. This is especially true if no party involved is harmed. Considering the time, effort and resources put toward conserving Cutthroat Trout populations, this sort of lease seems like a no brainer. Please approve this lease.

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# #12

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
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**Last Modified:** Tuesday, November 15, 2022 9:26:42 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:07:49  
**IP Address:** 192.161.71.163

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Page 1

## Q1

Contact information:

**Name:** TJ Laviolette  
**City/Town:** Livingston  
**Email Address:** troutwest.mt@gmail.com

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## Q2

Please comment on the Rock Creek (Paradise Valley) Water Right Lease.

I support the Rock Creek project on the Yellowstone River. Would be a immense gain to the fishery.

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# #13

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Tuesday, November 15, 2022 7:49:38 PM  
**Last Modified:** Tuesday, November 15, 2022 7:52:25 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:02:46  
**IP Address:** 172.221.104.230

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Page 1

## Q1

Contact information:

Name:	<b>Chad Olsen</b>
City/Town:	<b>Livingston</b>
State/Province:	<b>MT</b>
Email Address:	<b>chad.gyff@gmail.com</b>

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## Q2

Please comment on the Rock Creek (Paradise Valley) Water Right Lease.

I am writing to support FWP's 30 year lease of water right's for instream flows for Rock & Stoughten Creeks. This will help preserve native Yellowstone Cutthroat trout as well as other trout species. We need more deals like this to help with instream flows in creeks and rivers throughout the state!

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# #14

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
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**Last Modified:** Wednesday, November 16, 2022 7:15:14 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:09:14  
**IP Address:** 174.215.16.96

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Page 1

## Q1

Contact information:

Name:	<b>Hunter Lewis</b>
City/Town:	<b>Billings</b>
State/Province:	<b>MT</b>
Email Address:	<b>hlhunt@live.com</b>

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## Q2

Please comment on the Rock Creek (Paradise Valley) Water Right Lease.

Yellowstone Cutthroat, and all native trout within our states border, are as unique as the land and water we share. These fish should be a top priority for the agency whose job is not only working for the people of Montana, but most importantly - for the fish and wildlife that call it home. I support any and all effort to help boost native fish populations in Montana.

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# #15

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
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**Last Modified:** Wednesday, November 16, 2022 10:20:31 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:01:43  
**IP Address:** 76.75.18.58

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## Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Kelly Kimzey**  
City/Town: **Wise river**  
State/Province: **MT**  
Email Address: **k\_kimzey@hotmail.com**

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## Q2

Please comment on the Rock Creek (Paradise Valley) Water Right Lease.

Fwp leasing water rights for 30 years rock Creek, is a win-win situation for everyone, especially the fish in the Yellowstone.

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# #16

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
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**Last Modified:** Thursday, November 17, 2022 10:40:06 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:04:59  
**IP Address:** 63.153.27.206

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Page 1

## Q1

Contact information:

**Name:** Brant Oswald  
**City/Town:** Livingston  
**State/Province:** MT  
**Email Address:** brant@brantoswaldflyfishing.com

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## Q2

Please comment on the Rock Creek (Paradise Valley) Water Right Lease.

I am writing in support of the Rock and Stoughten Creeks Water Right Lease Agreement, and I urge the Commission to approve the agreement. As an outfitter on the Yellowstone, I see this water lease as a a cost-effective opportunity to restore and protect instream flows that will benefit both the resident and migratory fishery.

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# #17

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Friday, November 18, 2022 4:26:14 AM  
**Last Modified:** Friday, November 18, 2022 4:27:36 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:01:21  
**IP Address:** 76.75.44.88

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Page 1

## Q1

Contact information:

Name:	<b>Michael Bias</b>
City/Town:	<b>Twin Bridges</b>
State/Province:	<b>MT</b>
Email Address:	<b>mikebias@3rivers.net</b>

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## Rock Creek (Paradise Valley) Water Right Lease

### Q2

Please comment on the Rock Creek (Paradise Valley) Water Right Lease.

Commissioners, Director Worsech,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and over 1,000 professional guide and outfitter members of the Fishing Outfitters Association of Montana (FOAM), I am writing to inform you that we strongly support the Rock and Stoughten Creeks Water Right Lease Agreement and urge you approve this important project as it provides a cost-effective benefit to the entirety of the Yellowstone trout fishery. FOAM supports the recommendation of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) that they make application to the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) to temporarily change the irrigation water rights to instream flow for a period of 30-years in accordance with the Water Right Lease Agreement.

Rock Creek, a tributary to the Yellowstone River, is located about one mile downstream from Tom Miner Creek in the Paradise Valley. The creek provides habitat for resident native Yellowstone cutthroat trout and spawning habitat for trout that live in the Yellowstone River. Stoughten Creek is a major tributary of Rock Creek. It also provides habitat for resident and spawning fish. Point of Rocks Ranch, the owner of the most senior water rights from these creeks, desires to lease their water rights to FWP for instream flow for 30 years. The project would replace irrigation water diverted from Rock and Stoughten creeks with water diverted directly from the Yellowstone River. Irrigated production would not be reduced. The cost of the 30-year lease would be a one-time \$10,000 payment to cover a portion of the water conservation infrastructure.

The water lease provides an opportunity to restore and protect instream flow in both Rock and Stoughten Creeks to benefit both the resident and migratory fishery of the upper Yellowstone River.

Respectfully,

Michael A. Bias, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

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# #18

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Friday, November 18, 2022 1:01:23 PM  
**Last Modified:** Friday, November 18, 2022 1:15:40 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:14:17  
**IP Address:** 76.75.24.19

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## Q1

Contact information:

**Name:** Chris Fleck  
**City/Town:** Columbus  
**State/Province:** MT  
**Email Address:** [chris@stillwateranglers.com](mailto:chris@stillwateranglers.com)

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## Q2

Please comment on the Rock Creek (Paradise Valley) Water Right Lease.

Members of the FWP Commission,

I am writing in support of the commission approving the Rock Creek (Paradise Valley) water lease agreement. This creek provides critical habitat for resident native Yellowstone cutthroat trout and spawning habitat for trout that live in the Yellowstone River. Stoughten Creek is a major tributary of Rock Creek. Streamflow data indicates that flows have dropped below levels necessary to keep the bed of Rock Creek fully covered in water from mid-July into the fall. With the exposure of parts of the stream bed, redds become dewatered which harms incubating fish eggs. Low flows also hamper the out-migrating fish to the Yellowstone River once fry emerge from the gravels. The water lease proposal provides an opportunity to restore and protect instream flow in both Rock and Stoughten Creeks to benefit both the resident and migratory fishery, providing a cost-effective means to benefit Yellowstone cutthroat trout. As a member of the Board of Directors of the Fishing Outfitters Association of Montana representing the Yellowstone Region, I strongly support this project and urge that the Commission approve the Rock and Stoughten Creeks Water Right Lease Agreement.

Respectfully,  
Chris Fleck

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